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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/997,570 | 11/29/2001 | Harry A. Loder | 57002US002 | 3753 |

7590 07/08/2004

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
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EXAMINER

CHIN, RANDALL E

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1744

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/997,570

Applicant(s)

LODER ET AL.

Examiner

Randall Chin

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 5-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-8, 11, 13, 15-21 and 23-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 9, 10, 12 and 22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. **Claim 1 should be clarified since “said actuator” (line 8) appears before the positive recitation of “an actuator” on line 11.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Wenger '077.

The patent to Wenger '077 teaches in Figs. 1 and 2 a cleaning device comprising a shaft or handle 11 having a first end opposite a second end, a cleaning head assembly at 15 at said first end of said shaft, said cleaning head assembly including a “projection” defined by fingers 19 having a movable strip (tissue paper as recited in col. 4, lines 48-49) adjacent thereto, an actuator defined by slide button 29 at said second end of said shaft, and a connector defined by flexible pushrod 27 coupling said cleaning head at 15 to said actuator 29 to move said movable strip (i.e., tissue paper) relative to the projection 19 during positional change of said actuator 29 (col. 6, lines 30-34).

As for Wenger's device being used to clean recessed surfaces, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed

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invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

As for the recitation that the movable strip moves relative to a "fiber optic surface" in contact with a side of the movable strip opposite the side without the projection (lines 8-9), no patentable weight has been given to the fact that the movable strip would move relative to a fiber optic surface as claim 14 is merely an article (apparatus) claim "for cleaning recessed fiber optic surfaces." As stated above, such a recitation merely involves intended use. Claim 14 is not a method claim drawn to a method for cleaning recessed fiber optic surfaces which would be a different case. It is patentably irrelevant what the article in claim 14, as presented, cleans. In any case, the article of Wenger '077 includes a portion of "a movable strip" (toilet paper) that can clearly move relative to any surface (e.g., body part, table, toilet, etc.) when actuated by the actuator 29. Further, depending on position or orientation of the toilet paper, a side of the movable strip opposite the side adjacent the projection can contact the aforementioned surface.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 12 and 22 are allowed.


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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the Examiner should be directed to Randall Chin whose telephone number is (571) 272-1270. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the Examiner are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Robert Warden, can be reached at (571) 272-1281. The number for Technology Center 1700 is (571) 272-1700.

The central fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Randall Chin
Primary Examiner
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